

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
PROJECT FACT SHEET
MARCH 1996
HNC REVISION: 7 November 1996
TAG REVIEW DATE: 20 February 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Fort Rodman (AKA Fort Taber)

SITE NUMBER: D01MA051300

LOCATION:

CITY: New Bedford
COUNTY: Bristol
STATE: Massachusetts

PROJECT NUMBER: D01MA051303

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 3

RAC TAG: 3 (NOFA)

2. **POC'S:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

a. The former Fort Rodman was located at the south end of New Bedford, Massachusetts at Clark's Point. The former fort

overlooked Buzzard Bay and Clark's Cove.

b. Currently the 68 acres that made up the former fort is owned by the City of New Bedford. An additional parcel of approximately 12 acres was owned by the Department of Defense but, was returned to the City of New Bedford after 1986 which makes that parcel not eligible under the DERP program. The Navy still owns approximately 2.6 acres. A Naval reserve is located on this acreage and will not be addressed any further in this report.

c. The City of New Bedford is in the process of building a wastewater treatment plant on a good portion of the former site. With Fort Taber and all the batteries still remaining the City has built a bicycle/walking trail along the outside of the former site. The city will eventually restore Fort Taber, all the batteries, and the land around them will be converted to a lawn for public use and recreation. At this time the area is fence off from the public.

4. SITE HISTORY:

a. During the 1850s the war department constructed a fortress on the south end of New Bedford at Clark's Point. When completed the fortress protected the main shipping channels into New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The granite fortress was named Fort Taber. In 1898 by General Order from Army Headquarters the fort was officially named Fort Rodman.

b. At the turn of the century and the coming of modernization of seacoast artillery and emplacements, five batteries were completed at the fort. In the early 1940's with changing war effort and the need for bigger gun systems for protection of the area, the construction of Battery Milliken was completed and housed two immense 12 inch rifles.

c. Once again in the early 1940's with the constantly changing war effort the fort was modernized with 155mm guns on Panama mounts.

d. By mid 1942 with less need for small gun systems all the Batteries gun systems were removed leaving only Battery Milliken with its two 12 inch rifles mounted on barbette-carriages and the two 155mm rifles, semi-mobile class, mounted on towed carriages (Panama mounts)

e. After the termination of the war the rifles from battery Milliken were removed and salvaged and the 155mm battery was transported to Fort Banks, Winthrop, Massachusetts. Fort Rodman

was declared surplus on June 5, 1947.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area A:

Size, Acres:	21.4
Former Use:	Battery Milliken/Small Arms Range
Present Use:	City Park/Water Treatment Facility
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

Area B:

Size, Acres:	4.6
Former Use:	Battery Area (Barton Walcot #1,
Present Use:	City Park
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

Area C:

Size, Acres:	6.3
Former Use:	Fort Taber, Battery Gaston, Battery Walcot #2
Present Use:	City Park
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

Area D:

Size, Acres:	2
Former Use:	Mine Storehouse/Gas Chamber
Present Use:	City Park
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

Area E:

Size, Acres:	19.1
Former Use:	Cantonment Area
Present Use:	Waste Water Treatment Facility
Probable End Use:	Same

Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

Area F:

Size, Acres: 12
Former Use: Cantonment Area
Present Use: Waste Water Treatment Facility
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Not FUDS Eligible**
Type: N/A

Area G:

Size, Acres: 2.6
Former Use: Guard House Area
Present Use: Naval Recruitment Facility
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: **Not FUDS Eligible**
Type: N/A

Area H:

Size, Acres: 106
Former Use: Water Area (Exclusion Zone)
Present Use: Public/Recreation Area/Sewer
Probable End Use: Public Park/Recreational Area
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: N/A

Area I:

Size, Acres: 23,000
Former Use: Water Impact Area
Present Us: Buzzard Bay
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: 8 Inch Rifle, Small Arms

6. Current Status: The Archives Search Report (ASR) was prepared by The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in March 1996.

7. STRATEGY: Areas A thru H: NOFA (RAC 5)
Area I: NOFA (RAC 3)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Records indicate that small arms and 8 inch guns were used to train with at Fort Rodman in Area I, Water Impact Area, so there is the potential for 8 inch Rifle ordnance presence. The area beyond 100 yards of mean high tide will not be considered eligible for DERP-FUDS cleanup in accordance with Memorandum, HQUSACE, ATTN: CEMP-RF, 15 Mar 94, subject: Defense

Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) - Site Eligibility Policy Clarification for Ordnance and Explosive Waste (OEW) at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The ASR recommends a NOFA for this whole area based solely on the Memorandum mentioned above, but the water area within the 100 yards of mean high tide is not excluded by this Memorandum. This area is considered without ordnance presence because it is very unlikely that a projectile shot from an 8 inch rifle would fall into the water at that short of distance. The TAG accepts the overall RAC score of 3, recognizing the potential OE presence in Area I, and NOFA.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: NA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: NA